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JOINT PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

ARMY-NAVY-CIA

SUBJECT : Missile Test Center
LOCATION: Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka,
USSR
WAC : 235

NO : PIC/JB-1016/60
DATE : 1 December 1960
COORD: 48-34N 45-53E

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MAPS or CHARTS

- ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0235-17A, 2d ed, Feb 60.
- ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0235-18A, 1st ed, Feb 60.
- ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0235-22AL, 3d ed, May 60.
- ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0235-23A, 2d ed, Feb 60.

REMARKS

The Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center is located on the east bank of the Volga River about 45 nautical miles east-southeast of Stalingrad. It serves as the major Soviet research and development center for surface-to-air missiles (SAM), short- and medium-range surface-to-surface missiles (SSM), probable aerodynamic missiles, and air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles (AAM and ASM). It also provides troop-training facilities for all surface-to-air missiles and surface-to-surface ballistic missiles developed at the Center.

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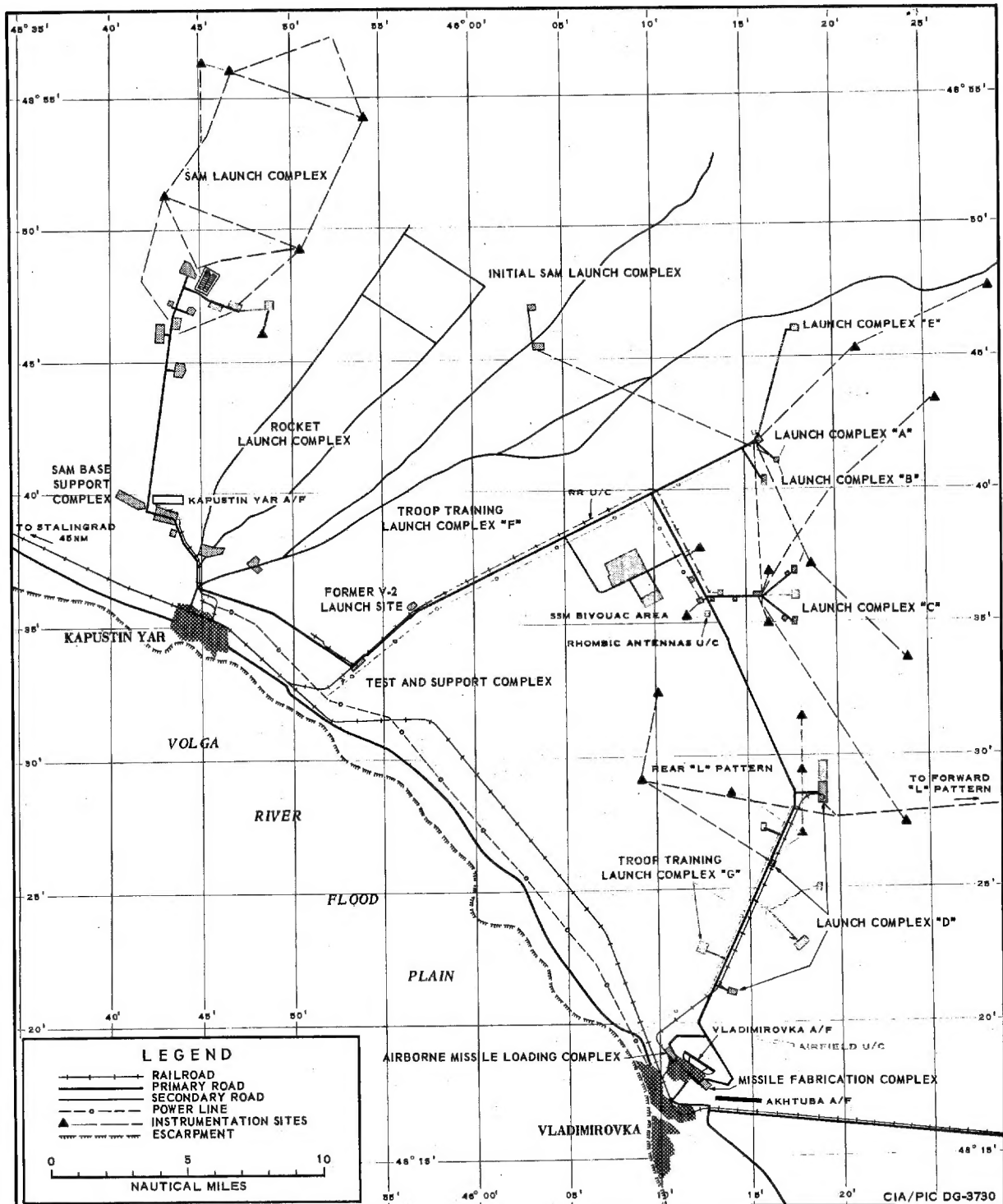
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KAPUSTIN YAR/VLADIMIROVKA MISSILE TEST CENTER. Facilities present in [redacted] are shown in black; those added between [redacted] are represented in green.

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25X1D The Center, which encompasses about 1,400 square miles, is served by both rail and air, and contains complete logistical and administrative support facilities within the towns of Kapustin Yar and Vladimirovka.

The Center was covered by good-quality aerial photography in [REDACTED] Between those two dates the operational facilities at the Center underwent an expansion of nearly 100 per cent. The number of concrete launch pads for surface-to-surface missiles increased from eight to fifteen, with a similar rate of expansion evidenced in the other missile programs. In addition, a number of troop training launch sites were added during the same period.

25X1D Because of the intense interest of the intelligence community in this Test Center, the accompanying map has been prepared to show the location and organization of major facilities at the Center. Facilities present in [REDACTED] are portrayed in black, and those added between then and [REDACTED] are shown in green.

25X1D The Surface-to-Air Missile Facilities are located in the northern part of the Test Center and are supported from Kapustin Yar. These facilities include the active SAM Launch Complex, which contains both SA-1 (Herringbone) and SA-2 (Hexadic) type sites as well as an instrumented test range, the SAM Base Support Complex, and the Initial SAM Launch Complex, now inactive or abandoned.

The Surface-to-Surface Missile Facilities constitute the largest, most varied, and most widely dispersed group in the Center. They include the following: Launch Complexes "A", "B", "C", and "E"; Troop Training Launch Complexes "F" and "G"; the Rocket Launch Complex; and the Test and Support Complex. All these complexes are supported from Kapustin Yar, except Troop Training Launch Complex "G", which is supported from Vladimirovka. The former V-2 Launch Site, active as early as November 1947 and now abandoned, is also located in the area of the SSM Facilities. The SSM test range, with its associated instrumentation is oriented generally eastward, and extends some 1,000 nautical miles in that direction.

The Probable Aerodynamic Missile Facilities are located in the southern part of the Test Center, and are supported from Vladimirovka. They include Launch Complex "D" and the Missile Fabrication Complex, the latter located at Vladimirovka.

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Approved For Release 2001/08/07 : CIA-RDP78T04751A000300090016-7

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The Airborne Missile Facilities are situated just northeast of Vladimirovka. They include Vladimirovka Airfield and the adjoining Airborne Missile Loading Complex, which contains facilities for handling both air-to air and air-to-surface missiles.

Two interferometer/instrumentation sites (not shown on the map) have been identified at the Test Center. One is located at 49-10N 46-53E, 3 nautical miles (nm) north-northeast of the town of El'ton, and the other at 48-12N 46-42E, 3 nm south-southwest of Verkhniy Baskunchak. A line projected between the two sites, which are about 58.5 nm apart, is on an azimuth of approximately [REDACTED] Photography of [REDACTED] shows ground scarring in the vicinity of these two sites.

All these facilities at the Missile Test Center are currently the object of further, more detailed photoanalysis. It is planned that each complex or group of facilities will be the subject of one of a series of detailed photographic intelligence reports.

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